

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Kindly replace the claims of record with the following full set of claims:**

1. (Currently amended)      A method of reducing noise in images formed by uniform regions and textures delimited by edges, the method comprising, ~~in parallel,~~ the steps of:  
  
    filtering said images, and  
  
    detecting edges and textures in theses images,  
  
    and a selection step of eliminating or [[, in contrast,]] applying said filtering to each image pixel according to whether this image pixel is associated or not associated with an edge or a texture,  
  
    characterized in that the method comprises, at the end of the step of detecting edges and textures, a sub-step of ~~re-assigning or not re-assigning~~ retaining each edge or texture -detected image pixel to as an edge or a texture image pixel in accordance with the result of a connectivity test.
2. (Currently amended)      A computer program, accessible from a computer-readable medium, which can be executed by means of a processor intended to carry out a noise reduction method as claimed in claim 1.
3. (Currently amended)      A system for processing images formed by uniform regions and textures, delimited by edges, the system comprising, in parallel:  
  
    a device for filtering said images;  
  
    a device for detecting edges and textures in ~~these~~ said images;

and a selection device for eliminating or [[, in contract,]] applying said filtering to each image pixel according to whether this image pixel is associated or not associated with an edge or a texture,

characterized in that the system comprises, at the output of said device for detecting edges and textures, a connectivity test device for retaining the assignment of ~~re-assigning or not re-assigning~~ each edge or texture-detected image pixel as an edge or texture image pixel ~~to an edge or a texture~~ in accordance with a predetermined criterion.

4. (Currently amended) A system for processing images as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that said connectivity test device comprises:

a mask filter,

a comparator to compare the output of this filter with a predetermined number,

and

a decision circuit for ~~assigning or not assigning~~ retaining each edge or texture - detected image pixel ~~to~~ as an edge as an edge or texture image pixel when the predetermined number is achieved. ~~or a texture in accordance with the result of said comparison.~~

5. (Currently amended) A video encoding sequence of the MPEG type preceded by a noise reduction method as claimed in claim 1 [[, or by a system for processing images as claimed in claim 3]].

6. (New) A video encoding sequence of the MPEG type preceded by a system for processing images as claimed in claim 3.

7. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the predetermined criterion is a predetermined number.